

STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Riley County Public Works Department, 6215 Tuttle Creek Blvd, Manhattan, KS 66503
(785) 537-6330 www.rileycountyks.gov

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain that falls on roofs or paved areas like driveways and roads. This water is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes or ditches separate from the sewage system. It eventually reaches our rivers or streams which supplies our water source.

What is Stormwater Pollution?

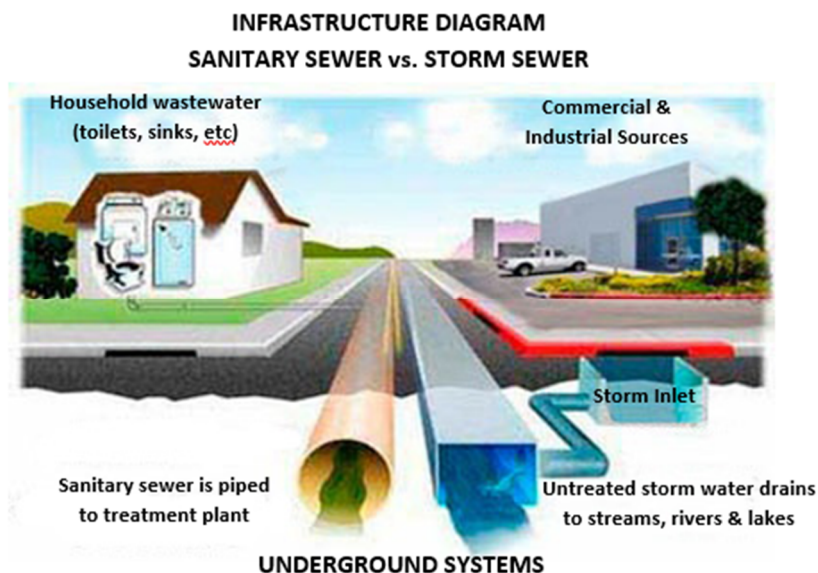
When rainwater falls on our sidewalks, streets, and driveways, it cannot naturally soak into the soil, which means it will probably end up in the nearest storm drain. As stormwater travels over these surfaces, and into the stormwater drainage system, any chemicals or debris left on the ground are picked up along the way. Because the water in our storm drains is not treated, a toxic soup consisting of water, chemicals, and trash is created. This mixture then flows through a system of pipes and ditches before ending up in one of our streams, rivers or lakes. The loss of fish and aquatic wildlife is the result of unclean stormwater runoff.

How to Report Illegal Dumping

Any reporting can be done on a confidential basis by calling Riley County Public Works at 785-537-6330 during normal business hours.

What Contributes to Stormwater Pollution?

Believe it or not, common household products are a major factor in Stormwater Pollution. A few examples of these substances are pesticides, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, and yard waste.



Some Helpful Tips

1. Take hazardous waste, such as spray cans, paint, oil, and cleaning supplies to the Riley County Hazardous Waste Facility, 6245 Tuttle Creek Blvd, Manhattan, KS 66503. For more information call 785-539-3202.
2. Pick up after your pets and dispose of their waste.

Stormwater Q & A

Q: I have seen markers on storm drains. What do they mean?

A: The markers found on storm drains that say “No Dumping, Leads to River” are in place to remind each of us anything we dump into the storm drain or leave on the ground will find its way into our local streams, rivers and lakes.

Q: Are sewers and storm drains the same thing?

A: No. They are two completely separate drainage systems. Wastewater from your sinks, showers and toilets will be extensively treated before being discharged. On the other hand, water entering storm drains and ditches flows untreated, directly into our streams, ditches, and rivers.

Q: Why should I care about what goes down the storm drain?

A: Everyone should be concerned about stormwater quality because what we put down the storm drain ends up in places like Wildcat Creek, Tuttle Creek Lake, or the Kansas/Big Blue River. Everything we do affects people living downstream and remember we all live downstream from someone.

